

# TENNESSEE BALLOT ACCESS AND ELECTION PROCEDURES FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR CANDIDATES

## Statewide Party Candidates

Under state law, both the Democratic and Republican parties are permitted to nominate elector candidates by any method authorized by party rules. TCA §§2-13-201 and 2-13-203. Under TCA §2-13-203(c), the names of the elector candidates who have been nominated by the parties are to be immediately certified to the Coordinator of Elections by the chairperson of the nominating body. This must be done, at the latest, by 12:00 noon, prevailing time, on August 19, 2004. TCA §2-5-101(a).

## Independent Elector Candidates

The statute governing independent presidential candidates changed for the 2004 election to require that a candidate must choose eleven (11) electors as outlined below. Each elector shall circulate his own petition to obtain the signatures and addresses of at least twenty-five (25) registered voters. Unless a candidate files eleven (11) separate petitions (one for each elector), each of which contains the signatures of at least twenty-five (25) registered voters, the candidate's name will not appear on the ballot. The filing deadline for petitions is 12:00 NOON, Central time, on the third Thursday in August (August 19, 2004). TCA §2-5-101(a). Petitions may be obtained no more than 90 days before the qualifying deadline date (first date to obtain petition is May 21, 2004). Any registered voter of the State of Tennessee may sign the nominating petition. However, the electors must be selected as follows: For each of the nine congressional districts in Tennessee, one (1) elector will be elected who is a resident of the congressional district. Two (2) additional electors will be elected who may be residents of any part of the state. TCA §§2-15-101 and 2-15-102.

The original of each petition must be filed with the State Election Commission and a certified duplicate with the Coordinator of Elections. A certified duplicate is a photocopy of the original petition on which the candidate or the person making the copy writes "This is a true copy of the original" along with the candidate's or copier's signature. Both the original and certified copy shall be submitted to the following address:

Division of Elections  
312 Eighth Avenue North  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, William R. Snodgrass Tower  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243  
(615) 741-7956

A postmark **will not** suffice. TCA §§2-5-101(a), 2-5-103(a) and 2-1-108.

### **Election Procedures**

On November 2, 2004, the voters of Tennessee will vote for a presidential candidate who shall have pledged to him or her eleven (11) presidential electors. Voters will vote for the presidential candidate of the voter's choice, and the electors pledged to the presidential candidate receiving the highest number of votes are elected to represent Tennessee in the Electoral College. TCA §§2-15-101 and 102.

### **Campaign Contribution and Disclosure Reports**

All presidential candidates should contact the Federal Election Commission (1-800-424-9530 #4) for information regarding campaign contribution and disclosure reports and filing requirements. If campaign expenditures are made in Tennessee, the FEC requires presidential candidates to make certain filings in Tennessee with the Registry of Election Finance. The Registry's address is as follows:

404 James Robertson Parkway  
Suite 1614  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1360  
(615) 741-7959

### **Tennessee Election Code**

Copies of the 2003 Tennessee Election Code may be obtained by sending a check for \$33.90 payable to the Secretary of State to the Coordinator of Elections. A returned check/collection agency fee of \$25.00 will be assessed for every check not honored by the bank.